



Date: January 20, 2022

To: The Honorable Shane Pendergrass

From: Aliyah N. Horton, CAE, Executive Director, 240-688-7808

Cc: Members, Health and Government Operations Committee

RE: SUPPORT WITH AMENDMENT HB 28 -Pharmacists – Aids for the Cessation of Tobacco Product Use

The Maryland Pharmacists Association (MPhA) supports the ability of pharmacists to aid Maryland residents in reducing tobacco use. We fully support the need for the bill. In fact, we introduced legislation to advance more substantial changes for pharmacist prescriptive authority for the full scope of tobacco-cessation medication and not just nicotine replacement therapy. So, this bill is a compromise.

However, in its fourth iteration, as introduced, HB 28 leaves out a critical component of remuneration for the clinical services provided by a pharmacist. The screening, prescribing and ongoing counseling related to tobacco-cessation requires more than a standard conversation at the pharmacy counter.

If pharmacists are authorized to do this important work, then they must be compensated similarly to any other healthcare provider offering the same service. As has been even more illuminated by the pandemic, pharmacists are a critical component in community health care. **The pharmacy community cannot continue to dispense medications under cost AND provide clinical services at no cost.** We recognize the accessibility and value this type of service can provide for the state's Medicaid population. As such, the following amendment is submitted for the committee's consideration (BOLD CAPS) to support coverage of pharmacist's services.

Article – Health – General

Article – Health – General 14 15–101. 15

(a) In this title the following words have the meanings indicated.

(b) “Enrollee” means a program recipient who is enrolled in a managed care organization.

(h) “Program” means the Maryland Medical Assistance Program.

15–150.

THE PROGRAM AND THE MARYLAND CHILDREN'S HEALTH PROGRAM SHALL PROVIDE COVERAGE FOR SERVICES RENDERED TO AN ENROLLEE BY A LICENSED PHARMACIST UNDER § 12–513 OF THE HEALTH OCCUPATIONS ARTICLE, TO THE SAME EXTENT AS SERVICES RENDERED BY ANY OTHER LICENSED HEALTH CARE PRACTITIONER, IN SCREENING AND COUNSELING AN ENROLLEE AND PRESCRIBING NICOTINE REPLACEMENT THERAPY MEDICATIONS APPROVED BY THE U.S. FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION AS AN AID FOR THE CESSATION OF THE USE OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS FOR THE ENROLLEE.

MPhA founded in 1882 is the only state-wide professional society representing all practicing pharmacists in Maryland. Our mission is to strengthen the profession of pharmacy, advocate for all Maryland Pharmacists and promote excellence in pharmacy practice.